

# **EXHIBIT C**

# Chelsea Manning, who gave trove of U.S. secrets to WikiLeaks, exits prison

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## Body

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Transgender Army private had sentence commuted by Obama

Chelsea Manning, the transgender Army private who passed a trove of sensitive government documents to WikiLeaks in 2010, walked out of the disciplinary barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., on Wednesday morning after serving an abbreviated sentence in connection with one of the most notorious leaks of classified documents in U.S. history.

Manning's 35-year sentence was commuted by President Barack Obama, who concluded that seven years in federal custody was enough for her crimes. She now heads to Maryland, according to supporters who set up an online fundraising site that collected more than \$150,000 for housing and other essentials as she reenters society.

Wednesday morning, Manning - who wrote columns and posted to Twitter with the help of supporters while in prison - posted a photo on her social-media accounts of two feet in black Converse shoes. "First steps of freedom!!" she wrote.

Manning, who was previously known as Bradley Manning, later tweeted about one of her first meals outside prison: "Hot, greasy pizza." And she issued a statement through the American Civil Liberties Union, which helped her get treatment for gender dysphoria while incarcerated.

"After another anxious four months of waiting, the day has finally arrived. I am looking forward to so much!" Manning said. "Whatever is ahead of me is far more important than the past. I'm figuring things out right now - which is exciting, awkward, fun, and all new for me."

Manning's representatives have declined interview requests.

Manning, 29, was an intelligence analyst for the Army at the time of her arrest in 2010. The trove of material she provided to anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks - documents known as the Iraq and Afghanistan "War Logs" - included video of a U.S. Apache helicopter opening fire on a group of suspected insurgents in Baghdad. Among the dead were two journalists who worked for the Reuters news agency.

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She also leaked documents related to detainees at the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and about 250,000 State Department cables.

Manning has been lauded as a hero by some and decried as a traitor by others, including President Trump. Her lengthy initial sentence and at times severe treatment while incarcerated - she spent long stretches of time in solitary confinement and at one point was made to sleep naked - made her a cause celebre for antiwar and government transparency advocates. Critics, meanwhile, said she put U.S. lives and operations at risk as an attention-getting antic.

Obama commuted Manning's sentence, concluding that she had served enough time. The decision marked a surprising turnaround for Obama, who brought more leak prosecutions than previous administrations combined.

Manning announced after her conviction that she is a woman. Her battle to receive treatment for gender dysphoria at an all-male facility increased her profile in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. She emerges from prison as one of the most recognizable transgender people in the country.

"Chelsea is someone who has taken on a great personal risk and tremendous personal cost to do something she thought was in the best interest of the public," said Chase Strangio, a staff lawyer with the ACLU and a well-known transgender activist.

He called Manning "an advocate for herself and others at a time when people wanted and needed a voice for government transparency, for trans rights, for principles of democracy."

The possibility that Manning could become a prominent face in the LGBT rights movement has sparked concern among some, however. Gregory T. Angelo, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, an organization advocating for LGBT conservatives, said he finds it "perplexing" that Manning would be idolized.

"I think that it is great that Chelsea Manning is going to be able to live her life authentically, and she should most definitely be allowed to do so, but that does not excuse past behaviors that put lives at risk and put her into prison in the first place," Angelo said. "There are far better representatives of the LGBT community."

That Manning will maintain a public persona now that she has been released seems a given. While in prison, she wrote a column in the Guardian newspaper in addition to her Twitter account and blog. Her writings touched on issues including the ethics of solitary confinement and the Orlando nightclub shooting, but it also detailed her efforts to gain access to gender-related treatment recommended by her doctors.

In 2014, a federal judge granted her request to formally change her name to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning. The Army also eventually allowed her to use makeup and receive hormone therapy. But it denied a plea to let her grow out her hair, which, according to photos posted on the GoFundMe site, remains trimmed into a side-swept, masculine cut.

Manning's attorneys disclosed in September that she had been approved for gender reassignment surgery. The assurances from the Army that she could have the procedure came two months after Manning tried to commit suicide, and after a hunger strike that lasted four days, the ACLU said.

Army officials said Manning will remain on active duty - but will be on leave - as she pursues an appeal of her court-martial conviction. That means she will not be paid but will be eligible for benefits, including health care.

In the weeks leading up to her release, Manning's Twitter account has counted down the days. On April 20: "You know you've been in prison for a while, when the prospect of freedom is nerve wracking. =|" And just Monday was the message, "Two more days until the freedom of civilian life ^\_^ Now hunting for private #healthcare like millions of Americans =P".

"I personally would love for Chelsea to sit on a beach for a month and sip whatever drinks she likes to sip and relax," said Evan Greer, campaign director for Fight for the Future, a digital rights organization, who has been helping to raise money for Manning's return.

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